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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/655,238

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EXAMINER

BRINSON, PATRICK F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3754

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/15/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/655,238	Applicant(s) IMAMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner Patrick F. Brinson	Art Unit 3754	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 February 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 14-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,6,7 and 11-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 14 line 5 recites “said second cylindrical body” without proper antecedent basis. It is believed this should be cylindrical body edge. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT WO98/58704 to **Sawada** in view of U.S. 4,830,061 to **Karakawa**.

The **Sawada** reference discloses a fire sheet comprising a lamination of one or more fire resistant rubber sheets (1) composed of a thermally expanding rubber mixture and one or more metallic sheets (2). It is further disclosed that the sheet is used to surround cables laid in a pit. It is disclosed that the rubber sheet (1) and the metal sheet (2) forms the opposite surface of the fire-prevention sheet (3) and when

wound around at least one cable directly, the rubber sheet is inside and the metal sheet is outside. Again **Sawada** discloses the sheet is utilized to surround and protect members, and therefore discloses its use as a sleeve, however it is not disclosed that the sleeve has a V-shape cut at a longitudinal slit therein. The patent to **Karakawa** discloses a protective covering for pipes, including a longitudinally extending slit, having a V-shaped opening at the beginning of the slit, which serves as a fitting guide. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the sleeve of **Sawada** to have a V-shape cut at a longitudinal slot in order to facilitate easier entry of the pipe or materials placed therein. As to the recitation of having a V-shaped opening at each end, it should be noted that it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. In regard to the sleeve having an oval cross-section, it would have been obvious to provide the sleeve in an oval or circular shape wherein both would function to secure a cylindrical member therein and wherein the cross-sectional shape would appear to be a design expedient that may be varied in order to meet the needs of the user, since applicant has not disclosed that solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with either a circular or oval cross-section. In regard to the subject matter recited in claim 13, **Sawada** discloses the rubber including a 100 parts by weight of heat expandable rubber mixture, polychloroprene,

and 10-100 parts by weight of an inorganic filler, 10-200 magnesium hydroxide, and other components. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide other materials including expanding material and softener, if not already in the mixture in order to meet the specific needs of the user, Applicant has not disclosed that the recited material provides an advantage or solves a stated problem. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with the mixture as taught by **Sawada** in order to protect tubular member within the folded sheet.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 14-17 are allowed.

Response to Amendment

4. Applicant argues that **Sawada** discloses the fire sheet may be wrapped around cables and wires, but does not disclose it being wrapped around a cylindrical body. It should be noted that wires and cables are normally cylindrical. Additionally it should be apparent that if the sheet may be formed around cables and wires it may also be used to wrap around tubes. As to the tube having a oval cross section, it should be noted that because the sheet may be shaped around a cylindrical object, it may also be shaped to have a circular or oval cross-section. **Karakawa** discloses that it is well

known to provide a V-shaped entry of the longitudinal slot in order to provide an point of easy access into the longitudinal slot.

Conclusion

1. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Patrick F. Brinson** whose telephone number is (571) 272-4897. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Kevin P. Shaver** can be reached on (571) 272-4720. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Patrick F. Brinson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3754

P. F. Brinson
May 10, 2008